



STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Wayne Niederhauser
President of the Senate

and

The Honorable Rebecca Lockhart
Speaker of the House

Dear President Niederhauser and Speaker Lockhart,

As required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Utah Constitution, I am writing to provide you with my objections to Senate Bill 257, PARENT REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND CIRRICULUM, and to explain my decision to veto the bill.

While I greatly appreciate the sponsors' call for increased parent participation in decisions related to curriculum and instructional materials, the participation and dialog should happen with teachers and elected school board members, community councils, and charter officials – at a local level.

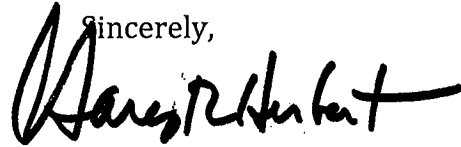
Senate Bill 257 calls for a review of curriculum complaints by an appointed state level panel of parents. Decisions about curriculum and instructional materials are made at the local level: local teachers, schools, school districts, and charter schools make decisions about materials, textbooks, and methods they will use in the classroom. Locally elected school board members and charter board members have the responsibility to work with their teachers and administrators to monitor the instructional materials used in their schools and to respond to parent concerns. Most already have formal processes in place to do this.

In discussions about this bill, the stakeholders, including members of the parent panel given the responsibility by the bill acknowledged the need for school districts and charter schools to have policies in place that outline a clear process to

address parent concerns about curriculum issues. I intend to work with the State Board of Education and sponsors of this bill to assure these policies are in place and implemented on a local level and in a way that will be truly meaningful.

For these reasons, I disapprove of and veto Senate Bill 257, PARENT REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND CIRRICULUM, and return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Herbert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor